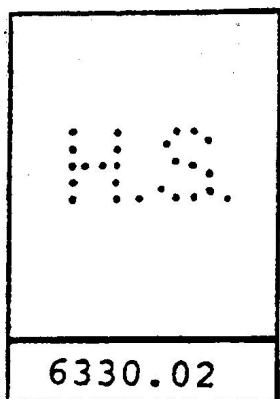


HISTORY OF FIRMS USING PERFINs  
HILLIER and SONS LTD. H6330.02 (H.S)

By John Button

This world-renowned horticultural establishment was located in Winchester by chance. In 1864 Edwin Hillier was seeking to buy a business and found two possible ventures, one in Yorkshire and the other in Hampshire. Record has it that the toss of a coin decided on the horticultural nursery trading under the name of Farthing in Winchester.

The first shop was located at 95 High Street, Winchester, which remained in use until quite recently. In 1874 he commenced the West Hill, Romsey Road nursery, which is still in use.



Edwin was succeeded by his two sons Edwin Lawrence Hillier, who built up a prize-winning collection of trees and shrubs, and Arthur Richard Hillier who headed the administration. Edwin Lawrence died in 1944 and his brother Arthur retired in 1946

The company then passed to Harold, the son of Edwin Lawrence Hillier. In 1953 Harold purchased the country house 'Jermyns' at Ampfield near Romsey and set about expanding the garden. Eventually the garden and arboreum covered 85 acres and became a National Horticultural collection.

During the Second World War the company supplied trees and shrubs to camouflage military installations and airfields and pioneered the transplantation of mature trees, some as high as 30 feet.

In 1957 Harold was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest accolade of the Royal Horticultural Society. This was followed by a CBE and in 1983 he was knighted by HRH Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The company changed its name to Hilliers Nurseries (Winchester) Ltd on the 1st September 1976. Since 1978, following its gift by Sir Harold to the Hampshire County Council, the arboretum has been in public hands. Sir Harold died in 1985 and is succeeded by his two sons, John and Robert.